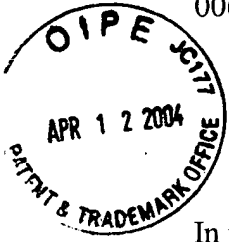


00684.003555

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
: Examiner: Unassigned  
Masanobu SAITO, et al. )  
: Group Art Unit: 2852  
Application No.: 10/714,636 )  
: Confirmation No.: 3255  
Filed: November 18, 2003 )  
: )  
For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS ) April 12, 2004

**Mail Stop Missing Parts**

Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the patent documents listed on the enclosed citation Form PTO-1449. A copy of the non-English patent document and counterpart abstract is also enclosed.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. Applications:

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>FILING DATE</u>	<u>GROUP ART UNIT</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>APPLICANT</u>
10/715,533	11/19/2003	1756	Pending	Saito, et al.
10/617,024	07/11/2003	2852	Pending	Watanabe, et al.
10/671,690	09/29/2003	2852	Pending	Saito, et al.

### STATEMENT/PETITION/FEE

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), since a first Official Action has not been received in the above-identified application, neither a Statement, Petition, nor payment of a fee is required for this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be deemed necessary in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

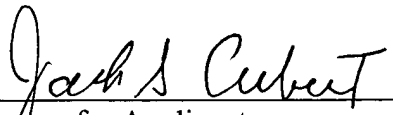
### CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Favorable consideration hereof is earnestly solicited.

Applicants' attorney, William M. Wannisky, may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

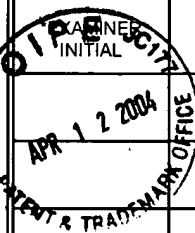
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for Applicants  
Jack S. Cubert  
Registration No. 24,245

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3800  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

WMW/JSC/tas

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)  U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)  Submitted to the PTO: April 12, 2004		ATTY DOCKET NO. <b>00684.003555</b>	APPLICATION NO. <b>10/714,636</b>	
		APPLICANT <b>Masanobu SAITO, et al.</b>		
		FILING DATE <b>November 18, 2003</b>	GROUP <b>2852</b>	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	6,167,212	12/26/00	Satoh, et al.	399	55	
	6,272,306 B1	08/07/01	Saito, et al.	399	270	
	6,415,127 B1	07/02/02	Yamamoto, et al.	399	284	
	2003/0077088 A1	04/24/03	Adachi, et al.	399	129	10/11/02

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
	6-289703	10/18/94	Japan			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
----------	-----------------

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.